

0041-0619-3



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X. Cobb  
8/22/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :  
Ryuichi ISHIKAWA, et al. : GROUP ART UNIT: 3729  
SERIAL NO: 09/160,581 :  
RCE FILED: Herewith : EXAMINER: CHANG, R  
FOR: A METHOD FOR CUTTING  
AN OPTICAL FIBER

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated April 17, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

A clean copy of the claims incorporating any amendment is shown below.

Please amend Claim 5 and add new Claims 11-16 as follows:

5. (Thrice Amended) A method for cutting an optical fiber, for cutting the optical fiber by moving a cutting blade, comprising a step of moving the cutting blade having a blade thickness  $\alpha$  (mm) at a speed  $\beta$  (mm/minute) relative to the optical fiber during the cutting, wherein  $\beta \leq -253\alpha + 65$  (mm/minute), and when the speed  $\beta$  is positive, the cutting blade moves in a direction for cutting the optical fiber.